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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 24 March 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for March 1994, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States addressed to you concerning the attacks by the Israeli authorities on a building in Hebron, that resulted in the death of a number of Palestinian citizens, including two women, one of them pregnant, as well as the curfew in the city.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Ahmed ELHOUDERI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group

ANNEX

Letter dated 24 March 1994 from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to the Secretary-General

I received with extreme concern the news that the Israeli authorities had carried out a large-scale military operation in the heart of Hebron in the occupied West Bank, in the course of which they besieged a building consisting of three homes and trained their artillery on it for 18 hours, without heed for its civilian inhabitants, causing the death of a number of Palestinian citizens, including two women, one of them pregnant.

Furthermore, the Israeli occupation authorities have been imposing a curfew on 120,000 Palestinian citizens in the same city since 25 February 1994, on the pretext of protecting 400 Israeli settlers, as has been acknowledged by the Israeli Prime Minister.

This fresh Israeli massacre comes in the wake of the adoption of Security Council resolution 904 (1994), which calls for the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, in order to demonstrate to the entire world Israel's insistence on continuing its breach and defiance of the will of the international community and the resolutions of international legitimacy and the spuriousness of its claims regarding the seriousness of its commitment to the peace process.

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States vehemently condemns this blatant Israeli violation of all international instruments and resolutions and human rights principles and calls on the United Nations to move swiftly and decisively for the halting of these inhuman practices, the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994) and the establishment of a mechanism to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The peace process is now exposed to a severe trial that threatens to bring it to a standstill or a breakdown, now that confidence in the feasibility of resuming the talks and making progress in them has begun to dwindle as a consequence of the bloody events and the massacres taking place in the occupied territories.

The United Nations is faced with a legal and moral duty to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and to ensure respect for its resolutions.

I am confident that you will accord this matter the prompt attention that it merits, for the sake of protecting the process of peace in the region and preserving the credibility of the international Organization vis-à-vis world public opinion and Arab public opinion in particular.

(Signed) Ahmed Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Secretary-General of the
Arab League